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## **Newsletter - 1985-11-21**

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# NEWSLETTER

99-1027

November 21, 1985

Washington DC

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM YOUR CONGRESSMAN. On a recent trip home to South Texas, the in-flight meal served to me by Delta Airlines carried a small leaflet upon the tray--and its message is heartwarming and true to spirit at this time of year. I'd like to share it with South Texans.

"Our nation's tradition of giving thanks at this time of year was established long before Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national festival in 1863, and Congress established it as a national holiday in 1941.

" During this time, we pause to give thanks for our many blessings...the freedoms we enjoy, the bounty of our land, the great opportunities America holds."

# # # # #

A TRIBUTE TO JONAS SALK. A miracle occurred on April 12, 1955. Dr Jonas Salk announced his discovery of a vaccine against polio--the horrible crippling disease that strikes children. And last week, the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, in conjunction with Federal Cabinet officials and their spouses, and Congressional members and their spouses, organized a banquet tribute to Dr Salk. It was a moving event with Dr Salk himself giving the closing remarks to the assembly.

Mrs de la Garza was one of the Congressional spouses acting as a sponsor of the event--both Lucille and I feel very deeply about the work of the March of Dimes. The tribute to Dr Salk was called "A Witness to Conquest" and it marked the 30th anniversary of his discovery of the polio vaccine that is still in use today. Dr Salk did his original work under a grant from the March of Dimes.

The special guest was little Miss Kristen Ellis, the March of Dimes National Ambassador and 1985 poster child whom I met last Spring when I participated in the annual fundraising kick-off event in the U S Capitol. Honoring the eminent Dr Salk for his undisputed, lifetime achievement in developing the polio vaccine was a pleasure equal to none.

# # # # #

VETERANS DAY WITH THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES. As most know, Prince Charles paid our nation a great honor when on Veterans Day he and Princess Diana went to Arlington National Cemetery and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.



Considering the close relationship we have with Great Britain--the symbolism of his journey to Arlington National Cemetery was monumental.

And Veterans Day was also the occasion for a reception in the British Embassy where Mrs. de la Garza and I met and talked with the Prince and Princess. I asked the Prince if he had plans to go to Texas anytime soon--and he quickly rejoined that he would visit next February for Sesquicentennial events. He remembered an earlier trip to South Texas (I met the Prince on the Armstrong Ranch several years ago) and remarked about the fine polo playing he enjoyed at the Ranch!

Princess Diana was tall, slender and strikingly beautiful--she looked every bit the future Queen. Mrs. de la Garza and I were taken with her openness and friendly manner. She launched right into conversation with us--everyone sipped champagne and talked in small groups which was a real pleasure in contrast to the typical "receiving line" method. Both the Prince and Princess were true ambassadors for the always close friendship we have with Great Britain and its people.

# # # # #

CONGRESS PASSES FAIR LABOR STANDARDS AMENDMENTS. If you are an employee of a state public agency, now you can receive not less than 1½ hours of time off the job for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required.

The Congress passed recently, and the President signed into law, a House-Senate Conference Committee agreement on amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938--and this was part of the total package. This "compensatory time" section in the amendments to the 1938 Act stems from a recently well publicized law suit, Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority.

# # # # #

FOOTNOTE ON THE TURKEY. No doubt the turkey is the most forlorn of all barnyard critters around this time of year! USDA says Americans will consume 800 million pounds of turkey on November 28!

USDA has a toll free number (for us--not the birds!), 800-535-4555, that you can call for information on cooking turkey--even in the microwave oven if that is your choice.

And here's a USDA tip. To prevent a dry bird at your family table, do not cook it above 325 degrees even if your cookbook says to do so. And cover it for a while at the early stage of roasting.

Also, it is recommended always to let the bird sit for 20 to 30 minutes before carving to allow juices to be re-absorbed and the meat to firm up (heat expands the meat fibres). As an aside, the turkey is indigenous to this hemisphere. Turkeys were already here when the first Europeans arrived. For a while, the turkey almost became our national symbol but somehow the eagle prevailed.

# # # # #

PUBLIC ALERT FOR ANDREA SHIMER. My House colleague Rep Jim Sacton of New Jersey alerted me to the plight of two-month old Andrea Shimer in his Congressional District. Andrea desperately needs a liver transplant in order to live beyond the next 2 weeks. If anyone or any medical institution in South Texas can help identify a donor--with type "O" blood--please call toll free 1-800-24-DONOR. She is just a little baby and we pray that she may have the chance to live.

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